INFORMATION LETTER

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ECONOMIES IN USE OF TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

N.C.A. Traffic Committee Recommends Methods to Achieve 10 Per Cent Ton-Mile Reduction

Recommendations on the steps that the canning industry can and should take to effect every possible economy in the use of transportation facilities, in order to carry out the request of the Office of Defense Transportation for a 10 per cent reduction in the ton-mile load, have been submitted to the War Food Administration by the Special Traffic Committee of the National Canners Association whose appointment was authorized by the Administrative Council last November.

WFA was asked by ODT to obtain from each food industry the recommendations that it felt would be both practical and effective in accomplishing the desired results.

In its request for a 10 per cent ton-mile reduction the Office of Defense Transportation stated that it did not expect that the plans proposed would interfere with full production or consumption, and that any plan proposed should stop short of disrupting industry.

On the basis that reduction of production is not desired, and that restrictions of the areas of distribution would both interfere with efforts to meet the Government's demand for maximum production and prevent the economical and effective distribution of available supplies to the entire civilian population, the Committee on January 26 mailed to all canners a letter containing the following recommendations to effect economies in the use of transportation facilities:

1. Heavier loading of all raw materials and manufactured products, thereby reducing the volume of transportation facilities required.

2. Elimination of circuitous routing so as to reduce mileage and permit quicker turn around of freight equipment.

3. Prompt loading and unloading of transportation equipment, reducing the number of truck or car hours required for the service and in not taking advantage of the free time allowed for loading and unloading.

4. Cleaning of cars after unloading so that extra switching and delay to rail equipment will be prevented; also that the drain on transportation labor will be relieved.

5. Ordering only the number of cars that the capacity of a plant will permit for prompt loading or unloading.

6. Coordinating as far as possible the ordering of supplies and raw materials measured by the capacity of the plant for prompt unloading of such supplies and raw products.

7. Eliminating so far as possible the transportation peaks and valleys by anticipating transportation requirements so that even flow of traffic can be maintained.

The Committee expressed its firm belief that if the canning industry follows these recommendations sincerely and vigorously the result will reflect a 10 per cent improvement over last year. It urges the industry to take effective voluntary action, thus avoiding the possibility of compulsory orders that may seriously interfere with canners' operations.

Copies of the Committee's report to WFA are available from the Association upon request.

PLANS OF CONFERENCE

Details of Program are Now Under Preparation

Active work is under way on the program for the Processors' Conference to be held in Chicago on February 13, 14, and 15, and announcement of the subjects and speakers will be made as soon as arrangements have been completed.

Some of the subjects to be discussed, such as manpower, are of equal interest to the four groups of processors expected to be in attendance. Such subjects will be covered in general sessions. Other topics that may be of interest to individual groups will be handled in separate meetings of those groups.

Among subjects which are of particular interest to canners and which will be programmed for discussion at either general sessions or canners' meetings are manpower; government reservations from the 1944 pack and govern-

(Concluded on page 8038)

NEW RATION POINT VALUES ESTABLISHED FOR FEBRUARY

All Canned Vegetables Decreased; Four Fruits Increased, 3 Reduced; Grapefruit Point-free

Point values of all major canned vegetables will be reduced effective Sunday, January 30, but reports that a "point holiday" for canned foods is imminent were denied by Administrator Chester Bowles of the Office of Price Administration, January 27.

"The rumors are without foundation," Mr. Bowles declared. "The truth is that our food needs are fully as great this year as last. The military demand is greater. Civilian purchasing power and demand are greater.

"Rationing has protected the national food supply by controlling purchases of items in which there are shortages. The only result of a 'point holiday' would be loss of the ground that has been gained.

"The supply of processed food available for rationing is inadequate to meet uncontrolled demand. The indications are that less processed food will be available for distribution to civilians this year than last."

Civilians are allocated 228,800,000 cases of canned foods from the 1943-44 production. This supply is a little less than the 1942-43 allocation of 247,200,000 cases and substantially less than the 1941-42 civilian supply of 321,400,000 cases. It is also less than the 1937-41 average production of 285,800,000 cases, according to the OPA statement.

Point value changes for processed foods for February, and a brief explanation by OPA of why each was made, follow (points listed are for cans over 14 ounces and including one pound, two ounces capacity—approximately one pint):

Canned Fruits

Applesauce, increased 4, new value 16 points—There was a short apple crop last year resulting in a small pack of applesauce, which is being consumed

ahead of schedule. The supply is below last year's. New supplies cannot be expected before November 1944.

Cranberries and sauce, all types, decreased 4, new value six points—A highly seasonable product beyond the period of peak demand.

Fruit cocktails, fruits for salad or mixed fruits, increased four, new value 24 points—The supply is much tighter than in 1943. It has been moving out much faster than scheduled. Unless movement is checked the supply might be exhausted.

Grapefruit, decreased 14, new value zero—Additional supplies for civilians are not expected. Present distribution extremely spotty. Under circumstances it is felt advisable to allow limited, poorly distributed stocks still in retailers' hands to move out without further restrictions.

Peaches, increased 2, new value 20 points—Peaches suffered heavily in freezes last spring. The crop was short and the pack small. Movement has been faster than scheduled since the last point change was made for this item. The supply is below that of a year ago.

Pears, increased four, new value 20 points—The point value of pears was increased in November but didn't slow the movement sufficiently. The supply is short.

Apricots, decreased four, new value 20 points—Again there was a short crop and pack. Point values for apricots were increased until a can over 14 ounces and including 1 pound, two ounces sold for 24 points. The supplies are very spotty and movement has been less than scheduled. Point values for apricots were reduced to allow retailers and wholesalers to balance their stocks.

Plums and Prunes, decreased two, new value eight points—Movement during the last two months has been considerably under schedule.

Canned Vegetables

Asparagus, decreased two, new value 12 points—There has been a slow-down in movement since October. The supply is fairly good. Packing of asparagus begins in April, and it is desirable to move present old stocks more rapidly.

Beans, all dry varieties, including baked beans, pork and beans, kidney beans, soaked dry beans (except soy), soaked dry peas, lentils, etc., decreased four, new value six points—Point values were reduced because movement was less than scheduled. The supply is better than a year ago because of increased production. All dry beans were reduced from 14 to 10 points in December. This decrease did not stimulate movement sufficiently.

Beans, soy, all types, decreased two, new value zero points—This is a relatively new canned food item not nationally known. Reports indicate the supply has not been moving well. To stimulate movement and production, the point value was reduced to zero.

Beans, fresh shelled, decreased two, new value six points—The point value was decreased because of reductions made in other types of canned beans.

Beets, including pickled, decreased two, new value two points—Movement has been slowing down for several months. It picked up after the point value was decreased in November but not sufficiently. The supply is a little better than a year ago.

Corn, except vacuum packed, decreased two, new value eight points—Preliminary reports for December indicate slowing of movement. The supply is somewhat better than a year ago.

Corn, vacuum-packed, decreased three, new value 10 points—The decrease was necessary because of reductions made in other corn.

Spinach, decreased two, new value six points—A larger fall pack and an early pack starting in March and April explains this reduction.

Greens, leafy, except spinach, decreased two, new value four points—Reduced to keep in line with spinach.

Mixed vegetables, decreased four, new value eight points—Point values of such major vegetables as corn, peas and tomatoes were reduced. Mixed vegetables followed the trend.

Mushrooms, reduced 18, new value zero—Movement of mushrooms, a minor high-cost vegetable, has been slow. The item is not of sufficient importance to warrant the continuation of rationing.

Tomatoes, decreased two, new value eight points—Movement has been slightly slower than scheduled.

Point values for the items in which changes were made compared with former point values are as follows:

CANNED AND BOTTLED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

	Point Value New	Old
Applesauce	16	12
Apricots	20	24
Cranberries and sauce, all types	6	10
Fruit cocktail, fruits for salad, or mixed fruits	24	20
Grapefruit, all types	0	14
Peaches	20	18
Pears	20	16
Plums or prunes (all kinds)	8	10
Asparagus	12	14
Beans, all canned or bottled dry varieties (includes baked beans, pork and beans, kidney beans, soaked dry beans (except soys), soaked dry peas, lentils, etc.)	6	10
Beans, soy, all types	0	2
Beans, fresh shelled (includes black-eyed peas, etc.)	6	8
Beets (includes pickled)	2	4
Corn (except vacuum-packed whole kernel, excludes corn-on-cob)	8	10
Corn (vacuum-packed whole kernel)	10	13
Greens (beet, collard, dandelion, kale, mustard, poke, and turnip)	4	6
Mixed vegetables (over 20 per cent by weight of rationed vegetables)	8	12
Mushrooms	0	18
Peas (except soaked dry peas)	8	12
Spinach	6	8
Tomatoes	8	10

CANNED FISH	Point Value New	Old
Bonito	12	16
Mackerel	12	16
Salmon	12	16
Sardines	12	16
Shrimp	12	16
Tuna	12	16
Yellow Tail	12	16
All products containing more than 20 per cent of the fish above	12	16

MEATS IN TIN OR GLASS CONTAINERS

Pork sausage (bulk or link)	4	6
Dried beef	16	14
Luncheon meat	6	7
Tongue, beef	6	8
Vienna sausage	4	6
Meat loaf	5	6
Ham (whole or piece)	8	(new item)

PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM ISSUED FOR FARM CROPS

Details of Canning Crop Program Yet to be Announced by Government

Subject to action by Congress, the War Food Administration on January 26 announced a broad program of agricultural support prices which in effect guarantees farmers a minimum price for their products despite market fluctuations which may result from the trend of the war.

The program, which will not be effective unless Congress makes provision for carrying it out, is based on the necessity "to meet the costs of expanded production sought in many commodities, and to express to farmers the relative requirements for the various products which the nation needs," War Food Administrator Marvin Jones said.

Yet to be announced are the price support program for prunes, raisins, dried cut fruits, vegetables for processing, and certain fruits for canning.

It is planned to carry out the support price programs through loans, purchases of commodities for military, Lend-lease and other government uses and, for some commodities, direct payments to farmers or processors.

In addition to outlining the WFA program for basic and other farm crops, Mr. Jones' statement has the following to say about canning crops:

Fruits for Processing

In order to encourage the utilization of prospective 1944 fruit supplies in accordance with requirements for processing, the War Food Administration will support prices to producers and processors for peaches and pears for canning, and for the following dried fruits: Apples, apricots, clingstone and freestone peaches, pears, prunes, raisins.

Detailed announcements concerning these programs will be made prior to the beginning of the respective marketing season for these commodities.

Vegetables for Canning

Prices to growers for snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, tomatoes, beets, carrots, lima beans, and spinach grown in 1944 for canning will be supported by the War Food Administration through price supporting contracts by canners who are certified by State Agricultural Conservation Committees as agreeing to contract with producers for at least the specified support levels for the raw products and by the acceptance of all offers of such canners to sell specified products to the Administration. Growers must contract with certified canners to assure themselves of the support prices. Prices to growers for peas for canning will be further supported by a purchase program for dry wrinkled peas of the varietal types Alderman, Perfection, Profusion, Surprise, and Thomas Laxton. The specified prices to growers and the levels of prices and conditions under which offers by certified canners will be accepted, as well as the prices and conditions under which dry wrinkled peas will be purchased, will be announced in the near future.

A similar program will be announced for supporting prices to growers of cabbage for kraut through offers to purchase bulk sauerkraut.

The statement presented the following with regard to two other crops in which canners are interested:

Dry Edible Peas—Smooth Types

During the period ending June 30, 1945, the administration will purchase 1944 crop smooth type dry peas of the varietal types Alaska, Bluebell, Scotch Green, First and Best, Marrowfat, and White Canada, which are offered for sale pursuant to procedures which it will announce. Purchases will be made in carload lots, cleaned and bagged, f.o.b. cars at country shipping points at the following prices: U. S. No. 1 grade, $5.65 per hundred pounds; U. S. No. 2 grade, $5.40 per hundred pounds. The WFA may refuse to accept offers from dealers whose cleaning and handling margin is in excess of the maximum rate approved by it.

The administration will make non-recourse loans available to producers on smooth type dry peas of the varietal types Alaska, Bluebell, Scotch green, first and best, marrowfat, and white Canada, which are stored on farms or in warehouses, provided warehouse charges are prepaid through April 30, 1945. The loan rates will be $4.50 per hundred pounds for U. S. No. 1 and $4.25 per hundred pounds for U. S. No. 2. Loans will also be available on thresher-run peas at $4.00 per hundred pounds on net weight of sound whole peas, plus split peas and cracked seed coats not in excess of the amount permitted in U. S. No. 2. Thresher-run peas containing more than the maximum limits of bleached and other classes permitted under U. S. No. 2 will not be eligible for loan. Growers will obtain loans through county agricultural conservation committees.

Dry Edible Beans

During the period ending June 30, 1945, the War Food Administration will purchase certain designated varietal types of 1944 crop dry edible beans when offered for sale to the Administration pursuant to procedures which it will announce. Purchases will be made in carload lots, cleaned and bagged, f.o.b. cars at country shipping points, at the following prices for U. S. No. 1 grade beans: $7.50 per hundred pounds for Baby Limas, Light Red Kidney, Dark Red Kidney and Western Red Kidney; and $6.50 per hundred pounds for Pea, Medium White, Great Northern, Small White, Flat Small White, Pink, Pinto, Cranberry, and Small Red beans; U. S. No. 2 grade beans of the above varietal types will be purchased at 15 cents per hundred pounds less than the prices for the U. S. No. 1 grade. The Administration may refuse to accept offers from dealers whose cleaning and handling margin is in excess of the maximum rate approved by it.

The Administration will offer price supporting contracts to country shippers under which (a) the shippers will agree to pay the growers for thresher-run beans not less than the support price minus the agreed margin for cleaning, bagging, labeling, and merchandising, and (b) the Administration will make beans available to shippers to be sold for civilian consumption at the applicable ceiling prices. The margins will be established by area, by agreement between growers and shippers.

The Administration will purchase thresher-run beans through county agricultural conservation committees at the support price minus the agreed margin where growers are unable to market their beans through trade channels at the support price minus the agreed margin.

The Administration will also make non-recourse loans available on thresher-run beans stored on farms or in warehouses provided warehouse charges are prepaid through April 30, 1945. The loan rates will be $5.50 per hundred pounds for U. S. No. 1, $5.35 per hundred pounds for U. S. No. 2, and $5.10 per hundred pounds for U. S. No. 3. Beans which have a moisture content of 18 per cent, or which, after cleaning, will contain defects in excess of 10 per cent, will not be eligible for loans. Growers will obtain loans through county agricultural conservation committees.

A SUMMARY OF FARM WAGE AND SALARY REGULATIONS

Procedures for Establishment of Rates and for Administration of Pay Ceilings Are Outlined

Regulations governing the procedure for establishing wages and salaries of agricultural labor, and for administering the specific wage or salary ceilings, after they are established, have been issued by War Food Administrator Marvin Jones.

The farm wage and salary stabilization program is administered by Col. Philip G. Bruton, director of WFA's Office of Labor. William T. Ham is acting chief of the Wage Stabilization Division which has been set up in the Program Branch of the Office of Labor.

The War Food Administrator has jurisdiction over all wages of agricultural labor, and over salaries of agricultural laborers of $5,000 per annum and less. Salaries of agricultural laborers in excess of $5,000 per annum are under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The Economic Stabilization Director has frozen wages and salaries of agricultural labor which are $2,400 per annum or more, and ruled that they cannot be increased without prior approval of the War Food Administrator, or the Commissioner of Internal Revenue where such salaries are above $5,000 per annum. Wages and salaries below $2,400 may be increased without prior approval, unless the War Food Administrator has established specific ceilings for such labor. However, no reduction can be made in the wages or salaries for any particular work below the highest wages or salaries paid therefor between January 1, 1942 and September 15, 1942.

The regulations issued by the War Food Administrator define "agricultural labor" as those persons employed in farming in any of its branches, including, among other things, the cultivation and tillage of the soil; dairying; the production, cultivation and harvesting of agricultural or horticultural commodities, and the raising of livestock, bees, or poultry. Excluded from this definition, of course, are persons who earn more than $5,000 per annum in salaries in such work.

In interpreting the definition, the regulations state that employees engaged in the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of agricultural or horticultural commodities in a greenhouse, nursery, enclosed shed, or hotbed as well as on farms are classified as agricultural labor. In poultry raising, the work is defined in the regulations as agricultural labor whether performed on farms or in hatcheries.

Excluded from the definition are persons employed at stockyards and in

raising fur-bearing animals. Also excluded are persons engaged in packing or other preparation of agricultural commodities for market, delivery of such commodities to storage or market, or to a carrier for transportation to market, unless they are engaged primarily as "agricultural labor" and just incidentally aid in these occupations when the commodities involved have been produced by their employers. However, such an employee is not considered to be employed in agricultural labor to the extent that he works in a packing shed or other establishment which employs eight or more employees in packing or other preparation of agricultural commodities for market.

Employees classified as agricultural labor in the regulations will remain in that status, even though employed in forestry and lumber operations, so long as the operations constitute a subordinate and established part of the employers' farm activities. Employees engaged all or most of their time in such operations are not considered agricultural labor, even though their employers also conduct farm operations. If an employer is engaged in lumbering operations on logs or timber grown on other farms as well as his own, his employees engaged in such operations are not considered agricultural labor. Neither are employees performing logging or sawmill operations for persons other than the operator of a farm.

Clerical help, farm managers, mechanics, maintenance men, and night watchmen are considered agricultural labor when directly employed to aid in farming operations, provided their employment is at the site of the operations. Independent contractors, or their employees, engaged in any of these types of work, are not considered agricultural labor.

Interpretations of the definition of "agricultural labor" will be supplemented from time to time by the Administrator as he finds necessary.

State Agricultural Wage Boards will be appointed where necessary to hold public hearings and assist in the establishment of specific wage ceilings and in determining penalties for violations by either employers or employees. Such Boards already established will continue to function.

Violators of wage stabilization orders, whether employers or employees, are subject to a fine of not more than $1,000, or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or to both penalties. In addition, where wages or salaries have been increased in contravention of a wage stabilization order, the amount of the salary or wage paid at the increased rate is disregarded by all agencies of the Government for the purpose of determining production costs of the employer in relation to price control, income tax returns, or contracts with the Government.

Under the regulations issued on January 21, governing specific wage ceilings once they have been established, applications for appeal are to be made to the State Boards. The Boards' determinations will be final, subject only to the right of the War Food Administrator to review on his own initiative. If an appeal is granted, the employer must post a copy of the ruling in a conspicuous place where it can be seen by his workers.

Wage Boards must confine their determinations to specific instances. These include allowances for unfavorable weather, poor crop yields, and cases of promotion and reclassification under certain conditions.

Wage ceilings now in effect on four crops in certain areas of California and on the citrus crops in the State of Florida will not be affected by the January 21 regulations until they are amended or revised in accordance with the terms of the new specific wage ceiling regulations.

Certain L-103-b Provisions Extended to March 1

Provisions of the order setting up 1944 quotas for new glass containers and metal closures which relate to prohibited sizes and non-listed items (that is, items which may not be packed in glass) will not go into effect until March 1, 1944, the War Production Board announced January 27. This time extension provides a period during which such containers now on hand may be used; they may, however, not be used after March 1.

Three other major changes are made in Order L-103-b, as amended January 27:

The order as amended January 4 had contained no packing quotas for tomato paste. In the amendment issued January 27, this item (No. 43 of the schedule) is given unlimited glass and closure quotas and is permitted tinplate for the closure material.

Commercial users of glass containers who have more than one plant may apply a separate quota for each plant or group of plants, or a collective quota for all plants—whichever method of computation is preferred. They may also consider wholly-owned subsidiaries in either of these two ways.

For apple cider containers, only new glass containers of ½ gallon and larger, used in 1943, may be included in computing the 1944 quota (100 per cent of 1943).

Wage Ceilings Established for California Asparagus Harvest

The War Food Administrator issued January 20 a public notice establishing maximum wage rates for agricultural workers engaged in harvesting asparagus for the fresh market in five California counties—San Joaquin, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, and Contra Costa.

The notice, Specific Wage Ceiling Regulation No. 1, also continues the same wage ceilings for harvesting asparagus for canning and freezing that prevailed in these counties under the terms of the Public Notice issued by the War Food Administrator on April 12, 1943. The regulations will be administered by the California WFA Wage Board.

Farm Wage Rate Record Set

The general level of farm wage rates declined less than usual during the last quarter of 1943 and on January 1 was at the highest point for that date in 20 years of record, the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently reported. At 275 per cent of the 1910-14 average, the January 1 farm wage rate index was down five points from October 1 but 51 points higher than a year ago.

For the year 1943, the index of farm wage rates averaged higher than in any other year of record. The general level of all farm wage rates at 264 per cent of the 1910-14 average, was up 63 points from a year earlier and was 22 points higher than in the previous record-high year 1920.

Net income of farm operators from current operations is also at a record level and thus far in the war has advanced faster than farm wage rates. From 1938—the year preceding the outbreak of the present World conflict—through 1943, farm wage rates increased 112 per cent while net farm income was up 222 per cent. Compared with 1942, however, wage rates were 31 per cent higher in 1943 while net farm income was up 32 per cent.

Pickle Packers Elect Officers

Officers for 1944 were chosen by the National Pickle Packers Association at the 51st annual meeting, held recently in Chicago. They are: President, John A. Miller, W & W Pickle Co., Montgomery, Alabama; vice-president, Louis A. Hirsch, Hirsch Bros., Louisville, Kentucky; treasurer, C. J. Sutphen, Chicago; secretary, E. T. Miller, Chicago.

POLICY ON APPLE RESALES

Use of 1943 Ceilings Required Instead of Relabeling of Goods to Show Year of Pack

Processors who purchase canned apples and other apple products from government agencies were advised by the Office of Price Administration January 28 that in resales into civilian channels they shall use as ceiling prices the maximums established for civilian sales of the same product processed from apples of the 1943 crop.

These provisions, specified in Amendment No. 3 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 493, effective February 3, apply to the pricing of apple products that may be released from time to time by the Food Distribution Administration and other government agencies from supplies which had been purchased for the Army, Lend-lease or other government uses, it was explained.

Under terms of the same amendment, similar policies and procedures are established which apply to dried apples and apple products.

Most of the processed food to be released for civilian use will have been packed in No. 10 cans, weighing an average of 6¼ to 6½ pounds for apple products, and will for this reason not generally be distributed to ultimate consumers through ordinary retail stores. It will be sold largely to commercial, industrial and institutional users, such as restaurants and bakeries.

In authorizing the use of ceiling prices of the 1943 pack, OPA took cognizance of the fact that some of the products being released by government agencies are of prior years' pack. The 1943 pack of apple products has advanced in price over prior years because of raw material and labor cost increases.

These provisions are made in place of a relabeling requirement to show year of pack of the products being released by the government agencies.

Processed foods when sold to government agencies are labeled with the processor's name and individual label. It is not practical to require the relabeling of products resold by government agencies to processors for many reasons, OPA explained. For example, such a requirement would require additional labor and expense in opening shipping cartons, labeling and repacking, and most canners are already faced with manpower shortages. Such an onerous requirement might also interfere with the government agencies program to release for civilian use foods not needed by such agencies.

The proposed plan of releasing surplus food commodities for civilian use is that the product will first be offered to the original processor and in the absence of a satisfactory offer on his part it will then be offered to other processors on a competitive basis. In the absence of an offer to purchase by the original processor or of competitive bids by other processors, the product will be offered to other kinds of purchasers on a competitive basis. Generally, it is expected that the original processor will repurchase the goods because of his desire to protect his label. Text of Amendment No. 3 to MPR 493 follows:

1. The title of Maximum Price Regulation No. 493 is amended to read as set forth above, and all references to the title in the regulation are amended to read as set forth above.

2. Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. *Purpose of the regulation.* The purpose of this regulation is to establish maximum prices for the apple products listed in section 2, processed from apples of the 1943 and later crops, and sales of the listed products processed from apples of other crop years as covered by section 15a.

3. Section 15a is added to read as follows:

SEC. 15a. *Maximum prices for resales by processors of apple products which have been sold by government agencies to processors.* The processor's maximum price, f.o.b. factory, for sales to purchasers other than government procurement agencies of any item listed in section 2, packed from apples of any year's crop, which has been sold to the processor by a government agency, shall be the maximum price established by this regulation for the same item when packed from apples of the 1943 crop.

This amendment shall become effective February 3, 1944.

FSCC To Sell 4,000 Cases of Dry Pea and Soya Soup Powder

The Office of Distribution of the War Food Administration announced January 25 that it contemplates the sale through the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation of 4,000 cases, 30 pounds each, of dry pea and soya soup powder, and is now prepared to receive offers to purchase.

Offers must be submitted on Form GPBS-1703 in an original and four signed copies, and should be received by the Grain Products Branch, Office of Distribution, War Food Distribution, Washington 25, D. C., on or before 3 p. m., Eastern War Time, February 8. The offers are subject to acceptance by FSCC in whole or in part not later than February 15. If accepted, they become contracts with the Corporation.

TRUCK FLEET RECORDS

ODT Simplifies Method of Reporting Mileage, Fuel, Tire Inspection, Loads and Idle Units

The Office of Defense Transportation has announced the adoption, effective January 25, of a simplified system of record-keeping by operators of motor truck fleets relating to mileage, motor fuel, loads transported, tire inspection and idle equipment. The action was embodied in Amendment 1 to Administrative Order ODT 9, permitting fleet operators of property-carrying vehicles to keep an integrated record of required information for all vehicles in their fleets, rather than for each individual vehicle, as heretofore required by the ODT.

Further, the ODT said, where it is not reasonably practicable for any holder of a Certificate of War Necessity covering a fleet of property-carrying vehicles to keep a record of loads transported, fleet operators may propose to their ODT district managers a method for estimating the loads transported, and use the method if the district manager approves it.

Heretofore, fleet operators of motor trucks have been required to keep weekly records of vehicle operations for inspection by ODT authorities. Under the amendment, however, where it is not practicable to keep weekly accounts, fleet operators may make entries covering either fleet or single-unit operations for each month, or any period shorter than a month, in order to simplify bookkeeping, it was said.

Administrative Order ODT 9 permits fleet operators of property-carrying vehicles to keep the required records in any convenient manner, except that tire-inspection records, in specified circumstances, must be kept on a prescribed form. Single-unit operators, however, are required to keep all records, except idle equipment records, on a prescribed form.

Utah Elects 1944 Officers

The following officers for 1944 were named by the Utah Canners Association at its recent annual meeting: President, Angus Stevens, Stevens Canning Co., Ogden; vice-president, Albert T. Smith, Smith Canning Co., Clearfield; secretary-treasurer, Harvey F. Cahill, Ogden.

Buy War Bonds Now!

FRESH VEGETABLE PRICE SCHEDULES ESTABLISHED

Ceilings Set at Country Shipping and Wholesale Receiving Points

Price Administrator Chester Bowles has announced a schedule of maximum prices for all levels, except for sales by retailers, for fresh carrots, spinach, peas, snap beans, eggplant, peppers and cucumbers.

This action, provided for in Amendment No. 18 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 426, effective January 31, established maximum prices, f.o.b. the country shipping point and delivered at wholesale receiving points. To these prices there are added cents-per-pound or cents-per-type of container mark-ups for the various distributive services entailed in getting the produce to the retailer or the governmental or institutional buyer.

Retailers already have fixed percentage mark-ups for carrots, peas, spinach and snap beans. These will later be changed to dollar-and-cent mark-ups, a type of retail control which will be used for the remaining vegetables, it was stated.

The basic (country shipper) maximums in the amendment reflect a slight working margin over the mandatory return to the grower dictated by Congress when it gave OPA authority to control prices on unprocessed agricultural commodities. However, in the case of snap beans, carrots and peas, prices are established somewhat above the levels required by law in order to promote the necessary production of these needed vegetables.

An example of how the maximum prices of the seven vegetables are to be controlled at levels prior to retail is shown in that part of the amendment which prices carrots:

A maximum price of $3, f.o.b shipping points in California and Arizona, is set for bunched carrots, full tops, in Los Angeles crates containing 72 bunches or more with a minimum weight of one pound a bunch. The maximum price of the same crate delivered to a terminal market or other wholesale receiving point is $3, plus freight (including 3 per cent transportation tax) from El Centro, Calif., plus protective services (16¢ per L. A. crate) in the period January 16 through May 31, 1944. For the period June 1, 1944, through January 15, 1945, the delivered maximum is the same except that freight is figured from Salinas, Calif. The maximum price, for sales by certain wholesalers in less than carlot or trucklot sales, delivered to the premises of any retail store, government agency or institutional buyer, is the delivered price, plus a mark-up of 90 cents a Los Angeles crate.

With this as the basic pattern, the carrot schedule then goes on to list maximum prices for carrots in containers other than Los Angeles crates, for clipped top carrots and for carrots completely without tops. The other six vegetables covered by the amendment have similar pricing patterns.

In the case of spinach, the maximum price, f.o.b. shipping points in Texas, is $1.15 a bushel.

For peas, the maximum price, f.o.b. shipping points in California, is $3.50 a bushel in the period ending March 31 and $2.80 a bushel in the period April 1-August 31.

The maximum price, f.o.b. California and Florida shipping points, for snap beans is $3.50 a bushel for the period ending February 29, $3.25 a bushel for the period ending April 30, and $2.70 for the period ending May 31. The price for the period beginning June 1 will be announced later in the year, it was stated.

The maximum price for sweet peppers, f.o.b. Florida and Arizona shipping points, is $4.80 for a 1½-bushel crate, weighing 45 pounds or more, in the period ending May 31, with a maximum of $3.65 for the same crate in the period ending July 15. The maximum price for cucumbers, f.o.b. California and Florida shipping points, is $5 a bushel container, with a net weight of 48 pounds, in the period ending March 31 and $3.40 in the period ending May 31.

OPA also announced that it is working on maximum prices for fresh lima beans, cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, celery and tomatoes and will issue them in the near future.

Parisius Is Made Director of New Food Branch in FEA

Herbert W. Parisius, former director of the Food Production Administration, has been appointed director of a newly established Foods and Agricultural Branch of the Foreign Economic Administration. The branch will be responsible for all FEA activities in development, procurement and stockpiling of foodstuffs in foreign countries, for import to the United States or as part of this country's direct contribution to the United Nations' pool of needed supplies, it was stated.

Since his return to Washington in 1942 to serve as Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture Mr. Parisius has served in these administrative posts: Associate Director of the Office of Agricultural War Relations; Director of FPA; Executive Officer of the U. S. Foods Requirement Committee; Director of Agricultural Operations in the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations.

WFA AGENCIES RENAMED

Price Office Established; Duties of War Food Divisions Redefined

Changes in the designations of certain agencies within the War Food Administration and new assignments of responsibilities have been announced by Administrator Jones, who explained that no fundamental change in organization is involved.

Under the new set-up the Food Production Administration and the Food Distribution Administration become, respectively, the Office of Production and the Office of Distribution. An Office of Price is established to handle matters relating to food prices for which WFA is responsible. The Agricultural Adjustment Agency, the Farm Security Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service become independent agencies reporting directly to Administrator Jones. Text of Administrator's Memorandum No. 27, Supplement 4, follows:

1. Hereafter the Food Production Administration and the Food Distribution Administration shall be known as the Office of Production and the Office of Distribution, respectively. The heads of these agencies shall continue to have the titles of Director of Food Production and Director of Food Distribution, respectively.

2. The Agricultural Adjustment Agency, the Farm Security Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service hereafter shall function as independent agencies within the War Food Administration, and the heads of these three agencies shall report directly to the Administrator, or the Assistant Administrators as the case may be.

3. The Office of Distribution shall be responsible for all procurement, stockpiling, storage, and distribution of food by the War Food Administration, including the distribution of food acquired by virtue of the operations of the several loan programs of the Administration, except that

(a) The Commodity Credit Corporation shall continue to procure and import food from the Dominion of Canada and sugar from the Caribbean area.

(b) The Commodity Credit Corporation shall continue to be responsible, until May 1, 1944, for such procurement and distribution programs as it is now administering, provided that on and after May 1, 1944, all such programs shall be administered by the Office of Distribution.

(c) The Commodity Credit Corporation shall make such distribution of food acquired by virtue of its loan programs or imported by virtue of its operations under subparagraph (a) hereof as may be requested by the Office of Distribution and approved by the Administrator.

(d) The Office of Production, acting through such agency in the field as may be designated by the Administrator, shall be responsible for the distribution of all food allocated for use as feed and other production facilities.

4. The Office of Distribution shall be responsible for the preparation of directives for the foreign procurement of food.

5. There is hereby established within the Administration the Office of Price. The Office of Price shall have supervision over all functions of the Administration relating to approval of maximum prices to be fixed for agricultural commodities or products, and relating to price support programs in connection with particular commodities. The Director of Price will prepare or review recommendations covering commodities to be supported and the levels and methods of support. The services of all agencies and personnel of the Administration shall be available to the Director of Price in carrying out this work. All dockets and formal correspondence between the Office of Price Administration or the Office of Economic Stabilization and the War Food Administration relating to maximum price regulations or price support programs, whether such dockets or such correspondence originate in the Office of Price Administration, the Office of Economic Stabilization, or within the War Food Administration, shall, prior to submission to the Administrator for approval or other consideration, be transmitted to the Office of Price.

Temporarily, Mr. Ashley Sellers, Assistant Administrator, will serve also as the Director of Price.

6. As used in this memorandum, the term "food" shall have the meaning defined in Executive Order No. 9280, issued December 5, 1942.

Non-seasonal Committee Named

An industry advisory committee to consult with and advise the Office of Price Administration on pricing problems of non-seasonal canned foods has been announced by OPA. Its membership is the same as that of a similar committee in the War Food Administration. These members are:

Oliver G. Willits, Campbell Soup Company, Camden, N. J.; Harold K. Bachelder, Ladoga Canning Company, Indianapolis, Ind.; E. R. Elwell, Burnham and Morrill Company, Portland, Me.; Frank Gerber, Gerber Products Company, Fremont, Mich.; Frederick C. Heinz, H. J. Heinz Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Scott A. Holman, Libby, McNeill and Libby, Chicago; Emil Rutz, Schuckl and Company, Inc., Sunnyvale, Calif.; and Jack Morgan, Morgan Packing Company, Austin, Ind.

Open Prices Authorized for Grapefruit Juice Sales

Processors of packed grapefruit juice of the 1944 pack have been authorized by the Office of Price Administration through the issuance of Order No. 27 under Maximum Price Regulation No. 306, effective January 27, 1944, to sell to government procurement agencies at "open" prices, these prices to be adjusted to the maximums which are to be announced by the agency in the future. Processors, however, may not invoice the goods at prices above the present ceilings.

This action, making a standard adjustable pricing provision applicable to packed grapefruit juice sales, was necessary because the armed forces had found it impossible to buy the new pack at 1943 maximums and because a serious congestion was developing in processors' inventories, it was stated. The 1944 maximum prices will be higher on government sales. Maximums on sales into civilian channels will be kept at 1943 levels through use of a subsidy.

New Freight Volume Record Is Set by Railroads in 1943

Railroads in 1943 handled the greatest volume of freight traffic, measured in ton-miles of revenue freight, for any year on record, the Association of American Railroads recently announced. In that year it amounted to approximately 725,447,456,000 revenue ton-miles, according to preliminary estimates based on reports just received by that association from Class I railroads. This was an increase of 13.7 per cent compared with 1942, and an increase of 53 per cent compared with 1941. The volume of freight traffic carried by the railroads in 1943 was an increase of 118 per cent compared with 1939.

During January to October, 1943, inclusive, the railroads carried 606,572,456,000 ton-miles compared with 526,654,986,000 in the same period last year —a 15.3 per cent increase. A revised estimate for November, 1943, shows a total of 59,575,000,000 ton-miles compared with 56,958,793,000 in November, 1942—a 4.6 per cent increase. The preliminary estimate for December, 1943, is 59,300,000,000, compared with 55,030,900,000 in 1942—a 7.8 per cent increase.

Canners Requested to Reduce Use of Refrigerator Cars

On January 24 the Association sent out to canners, secretaries of State canners associations, and the canning industry trade journals the following statement by Irving F. Lyons, Chairman of the N.C.A. Special Traffic Committee, dealing with the critical refrigerator car situation, and urging a voluntary reduction of their use:

At a joint meeting called January 24 by the Interstate Commerce Commission and attended by representatives of the War Food Administration, Office of Defense Transportation, Association of American Railroads, and the National Canners Association, attention was directed to the critical refrigerator car situation that still exists and an appeal made for the canning industry to reduce its refrigerator car requirements by at least 50 per cent during the estimated critical period. This period is expected to be most critical during the next 30 days and will extend beyond that, possibly to a less serious degree. It was emphasized that unless the users of refrigerator cars, including the canning industry, work out a voluntary basis for reducing their demands for refrigerator cars that they will be faced with restrictive car service orders on a permit basis, substantially the same as the Car Service Order 167, which expired December 21, 1943.

Obviously it will be to the advantage of the canning industry to voluntarily ration its refrigerator car demands rather than attempt to work under a permit system of car service orders. While this may be accomplished to some degree through individual economies, it may be done in more orderly fashion through the agency of local canner groups and those interested in particular commodities. It is, of course, expected that the degree of rationing by the industry will be controlled by the general refrigerator car supply and demand.

There is general agreement that Order 167 and certain other car service orders worked a hardship on the industry, and it is certain that similar embargoes would induce critical situations in the transportation of canned foods. In view of this, individual and group cooperation is requested.

Paper Saving Methods Urged

The tonnage of paper available for commercial printing purposes will be cut for the first quarter of 1944 25 per cent under that used in 1941. In order to produce at least as much printing as was produced in 1941, despite this reduction, the Joint Committee on Government Relations of the Commercial Printing Industry has asked the Association, and other trade groups, to call

attention of its members to possible methods of paper conservation in the use of sales literature, direct mail advertising, letterheads, forms and other types of printing.

Among conservation suggestions the Committee makes are : Use of lighter weight paper stocks, smaller overall sizes, smaller type sizes, use of both sides of paper sheets, economical design and layout, elimination of deadwood on mailing lists, careful checks on inventory.

It was urged that individual firms establish paper conservation committees to review present uses of paper and determine where savings can be made, and that they cooperate in local waste paper salvage programs.

Ceilings for Used Containers

Used fruit and vegetable containers in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington were given dollars-and-cents maximum prices by the Office of Price Administration in Revised Maximum Price Regulation No. 434, effective January 31.

The new ceilings, f. o. b. seller's loading point, are as follows for the principal types of containers resold in the six States:

Container	Emptier's[1] ceiling (each)	Accumulator's[2] ceiling (each)	Dealer's[3] ceiling (each)
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*
L. A. lettuce crates—no covers	8	11	13
L. A. lugs—no covers	4	6	9
1 bushel baskets—no covers	4	6¼	12

[1] An emptier is any person or concern which empties fruits or vegetables from a container, including grocery stores, canneries, restaurants, hotels, markets, institutions, etc., excluding Army and Navy posts. The emptier's ceiling prices are for unselected and unreconditioned containers.

[2] An accumulator is any person or concern which collects used fruit and vegetable containers or parts from emptiers for resale to dealers, growers, shippers, etc. Accumulators include salvage warehouses, commission merchants, peddlers, and open lot dealers. The accumulator's ceiling prices also are for unselected and unreconditioned containers.

[3] A dealer is any person who buys and sells used fruit and vegetable containers and maintains from season to season enclosed storage space and facilities for selecting and reconditioning used containers. The dealer's ceiling prices are for selected containers which have been reconditioned, if required, to prepare them for re-use.

Prior to issuance of the ceilings, ceiling prices of used agricultural containers in the six States for accumulators and dealers were the highest prices individual sellers charged during March, 1942.

Ceilings for all States except the six Western States were issued last July 26.

Use of Revised WPB Form 541 Is Required after February 1

Food packers who normally apply for priority assistance on WPB form 541 (formerly PD-1A) for the acquisition of equipment or materials other than controlled materials, have been warned by the War Production Board that effective February 1 only applications made on the new revised version of that form will be considered. The old form will not be honored after that date.

Ample supplies of the new form have been available in all WPB field offices since the first of the year it was stated. The new form may be identified by a listing of WPB field offices where, in accordance with indicated instructions, these applications are now to be filed.

As of February 1, all applications made out on the old form or applications filed with Washington rather than with the WPB field office nearest the person seeking priority assistance, will be returned for re-filing. Applicants were urged by WPB to adhere to these instructions to save their time and the unnecessary delays in final action which improper filing will entail, WPB said.

Canned Milk Statistics

During November the production of evaporated milk (case goods) fell below that of a year earlier by about the same margin as reported in October. Estimated at 155,999,000 pounds, the November output was 6 per cent smaller than that of November last year, but compared with the 5-year (1937-41) November average, was 10 per cent larger. For the first 11 months of 1943, the production of canned evaporated milk totaled 2,906,948,000 pounds, a decrease of 13 per cent from that of the corresponding months of 1942.

Manufacturers' stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) on December 1 totaled 198,595,000 pounds, an increase of 119 per cent over the stocks of a year earlier but a decrease of 26 per cent under the 5-year (1937-41) December 1 average. Manufacturers' stocks of canned evaporated milk showed a sharp reduction in November. The net decrease during November was 66,758,000 pounds, compared with only 7,028,000 pounds in November last year and a 5-year (1937-41) November average of 34,122,000 pounds.

Production of condensed milk (case goods) in November was estimated at 7,752,000 pounds. This is an increase of 50 per cent over the production of November last year and 60 per cent over the 5-year (1937-41) November average. For the months of January to November, inclusive, 1943 production of canned condensed milk totaled 102,590,000 pounds—70 per cent larger than the production of the same months last year.

Stocks of canned condensed milk on December 1 totaled 7,039,000 pounds, an increase of 172 per cent over those of December 1 last year but a decrease of 15 per cent from the 5-year average. The net reduction in manufacturers' stocks of canned condensed milk during November totaled 1,530,000 pounds, compared to an increase of 141,000 pounds during November, 1942, and a decrease of 400,000 pounds for the 5-year (1937-41) November average.

PLANS OF CONFERENCE

(Concluded from page 8031)

tment procurement methods; production goals; support prices for raw products; method of establishing canners' prices for finished products; priorities for equipment and supplies, including shipping containers; regulations on tin and glass containers; transportation problems. The Association's Committee on Planning for 1944 Production is preparing a report for submission at the meeting.

Speakers will include representatives of the agencies handling various phases of the government food production program.

As previously announced, the Administrative Council of the Association will meet on February 10 and the Board of Directors on February 12, and there will be such meetings of Association committees as may be necessary prior to the opening of the Conference.

All canners' meetings will be held at the Stevens Hotel. The Association has sent a letter to the entire industry giving information regarding room reservations.

Sugar for Fruit Spreads

Manufacturers who make jams, jellies, and other fruit spreads from unsweetened frozen fruits may obtain the same amount of sugar for this purpose as persons who use fresh or canned products, the Office of Price Administration has announced. This is provided for in Amendment No. 111 to Rationing Order No. 3, which became effective January 22.

Sugar for this purpose is provided at a rate of .67 pound for each pound of the finished product. OPA places no

limit on the total amount of sugar that may be used.

At the same time, OPA announced that manufacturers who make spreads of synthetic products used as a substitute for fruits or fruit juices may obtain either .67 pound of sugar for each pound of the finished product or the average amount they used per pound of finished product in 1941, whichever is less.

Ceilings on Vitamin A Oils and Concentrates Revised

A revised schedule of maximum prices at production levels for Vitamin A natural oils and concentrates was announced January 27 by the Office of Price Administration, in a move to discourage "blending operations" which have tended to disrupt the normal price structure and limited the supply of Vitamin A fish liver oils of certain potencies available to buyers.

The action specified in Amendment No. 1 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 203, effective January 26, will not change weighted average prices of Vitamin A nor cash returns to the industry, OPA said. The principal change from the previous regulation is to group into three main classifications the oils and concentrates. Formerly there were four classifications.

The new price schedule and prices are as follows:

VITAMIN A NATURAL OIL

Potency in U. S. P. units of Vitamin A per gram	Maximum price per million U. S. P. units of Vitamin A
Less than 40,000	14 cents
40,000 and more but less than 200,000	14 cents plus one-tenth of one cent for each 1,000 U. S. P. units of Vitamin A per gram in excess of 40,000.

VITAMIN A CONCENTRATES

Any	30 cents.

Under the original price schedule Vitamin A-bearing oils containing less than 6,000 units were not covered by the regulation; those containing more than 6,000 units, but less than 60,000 had a maximum price of 14 cents per million units; those containing more than 60,000, but less than 200,000 units had a maximum price of 20 cents per million units; and those containing 200,000 or more units, and all Vitamin A concentrates, had a maximum price of 30 cents per million units.

The action does not apply to oils sold for incorporation into animal and poultry feeds, which continue to be covered by MPR No. 53.

CONGRESS SUMMARY

Senate Giving Early Consideration to Food Subsidies; Renegotiation Now in Conference

Senate consideration of the Bankhead bill to ban food subsidies and to continue the life of the Commodity Credit Corporation, according to present plans is scheduled to commence during the week of January 31. The bill was to have come before the Senate following passage of the tax measure, but it was displaced by debate on a bill to provide a method for soldiers to vote.

The Senate adopted the recommendations of its Finance Committee concerning modifications to earlier suggestions for amending the renegotiation statute and passed the tax bill on January 21. The measure is now before a House-Senate conference committee where such differences as the House exemption of canned fruits and vegetables from renegotiation and the Senate omission of the exemption are being reconciled.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations recommended on January 26 that the War Food Administration be given $35,000,000 with which to operate its farm labor supply program this year. This recommendation, if adopted by the Senate, would raise the amount passed by the House to the estimate submitted by WFA. In addition, the bill as amended by the Senate Committee, would place administration of interstate and foreign labor activities in the Labor Branch of WFA. The Senate Committee retained the House provision under which workers may be used in packing, canning, freezing and other processing of perishable agricultural products, when authorized by the Administrator.

New Export Cargo Statements

Revised forms of the Statement of Cargo Availability (FEA 138) for shipments to Latin America are now available to exporters upon request to the Bureau of Supplies, Foreign Economic Administration, Washington 25, D. C.; its New York office, 61 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y.; Department of Commerce field offices, and the War Shipping Administration, 39 Broadway, New York 6, N. Y. Exporters have been requested by FEA to begin using the form as soon as possible. The form will be obligatory for all Statements of Cargo Availability postmarked March 1, 1944, or later.

Yellow Sweet Corn Hybrids

As a continuation of the study of yellow sweet corn hybrids initiated at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in 1938, that Station has published Bulletin 705 in which detailed and systematic descriptions of plant, ear, season, and quality of a large number of varieties are given. Each variety is compared with two or three others, including at least one established commercial variety of similar maturity season. Suggestions are made concerning their adaptation for home and market gardening or for commercial freezing and canning.

The Association does not have copies of this publication for distribution, but it is believed they may be obtained upon inquiry addressed to the Experiment Station, at Geneva, N. Y.

Kraut Industry Requested to Process Southern Cabbage

Faced with the largest winter cabbage crop in history, the War Food Administration has asked the kraut industry to process 80,000 tons of southern cabbage into kraut. Meeting with the Kraut Industry Food Advisory Committee in Washington, January 18 and 19, WFA called attention to an expected 1944 winter production of 515,000 tons of cabbage compared with a winter season crop of 435,000 tons in 1942, which is the previous high. Only 278,000 tons were produced in the winter season of 1943. In order to take care of the enormous 1944 yield the industry was asked to consider using part of the crop for kraut purposes.

California Sardine Report

Estimated figures on tonnage of sardines delivered to California processing plants and cases of sardines packed during the current season to January 15, 1944, inclusive, as reported by the California Sardine Products Institute, are as follows:

TONNAGE	Tons
San Francisco Bay	112,895
Monterey	180,810
Southern California	105,843
Total	399,548

PACK—Can sizes	Cases
1-lb. ovals	1,141,728
1-lb. talls	1,313,943
¼-lb. fillets	17,106
¼-lb. round 96's	72,999
5-oz. 100's	6,970
Miscellaneous	51,998
Total	2,604,744

REPORT ON CANNERS' STOCKS FOR THE CIVILIAN TRADE

Major Vegetables for Civilian Trade on January 1 About 6 Per Cent Less Than a Year Ago

The Association's Division of Statistics reports than canners' stocks of the principal canned vegetables available for the civilian trade on January 1, 1944, were about 6 per cent less than a year earlier.

Stocks of green and wax beans, baked and other dry cooked beans, and peas were much larger this year than on January 1, 1943. Tomato and tomato juice stocks were considerably lower on January 1 this year than a year earlier, principally because of the packs of those items being shorter in 1943. Stocks of both peaches and pears on January 1, 1944, likewise were considerably lower than stocks of a year earlier. This situation is in large part a reflection of the short packs of 1943. The table at right shows stocks of selected canned vegetables and fruits in canners' hands available for civilian trade only, as of January 1, 1944, compared with January 1, 1943. In the case of the canned vegetables the figures are expressed in thousands of cases of all sizes held. In the case of the two canned fruits, the figures are expressed in standard cases of 24 2's.

	Stocks held for civilian trade *only* Jan. 1, 1943	Jan. 1, 1944
	1,000 cases	*1,000 cases*
Beans, baked and other dry cooked	312	3,064
Beans, green and wax	4,617	6,050
Beans, lima	709	587
Beets	2,898	2,675
Carrots	619	578
Corn	9,596	8,984
Peas	6,831	7,337
Spinach	617	528
Tomatoes	5,528	3,796
Tomato juice	7,525	3,523
Peaches	4,441	2,771
Pears	3,279	891

A record of the stocks held by canners for the civilian trade on January 1 for each of the last five years is shown in the following table for the four principal canned vegetables. The movements out of canners' hands from January 1 to the end of the pack year, together with the stocks left in canners' hands at the end of the pack year, are shown for the years 1940-1943 inclusive. The figures in this table show stocks of actual cases and are comparable to the reports that have been issued by the Division of Statistics for former years.

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
	1,000 cases	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*	*1,000 cases*
CANNED PEAS:					
Stocks January 1	10,306	11,596	8,600	6,831	7,337
Shipped from Jan. 1 to June 1	7,677	10,066	8,240	5,848	.....
Carryover June 1	2,629	1,530	360	983	.....
CANNED CORN:					
Stocks January 1	12,446	9,866	10,588	9,596	8,984
Shipped from Jan. 1 to Aug. 1	9,553	9,720	10,475	9,382	.....
Carryover August 1	2,893	146	113	214	.....
CANNED TOMATOES:					
Stocks January 1	11,560	13,742	9,360	5,528	3,796
Shipped from Jan. 1 to July 1	8,577	11,418	8,633	4,664	.....
Carryover July 1	2,983	2,324	727	864	.....
CANNED GREEN AND WAX BEANS:					
Stocks January 1	4,492	3,899	2,689	4,617	6,050
Shipped from Jan. 1 to July 1	3,723	3,790	2,629	4,474	.....
Carryover July 1	769	109	60	143	.....

Farm Freezer Program Urged

The Farm Freezer Industry Advisory Committee has presented a program calling for the manufacture and distribution of 25,000 farm freezers in 1944, the War Production Board said recently.

The proposed program will go before the Requirements Committee of WPB for consideration.

The committee, meeting in Washington for its first session, suggested that each unit approved for production combine cold storage and freezing elements and that no more than two sizes of any freeze be manufactured by any producer. The freezers also would be limited in range from 15 to 45 cubic feet capacity.

It was further proposed that distribution of these freezers be controlled through AAA County Rationing Committees, upon criteria to be furnished by the War Food Administration.

Mexican Winter Vegetables

Exports of winter vegetables from Sonora and Sinaloa, Mexico, for the 1943-44 season are estimated at 7,820 carloads compared with 8,810 in the preceding season, according to the Department of Commerce. Floods and storms damaged some plantings and prospects for replanting in some regions are not good.

Export Ceilings Established for Dried Prunes and Raisins

Packers of dried prunes and raisins have been shown how to determine their maximum prices for such export sales of 1943 crop as may be allowed by the War Food Administration. The provisions were made known to them by the Office of Price Administration through the issuance of Amendment No. 2 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 475, effective January 22, and Amendment No. 5 to the Second Revised Maximum Export Regulation, effective January 26.

The packer takes the maximum prices already established for sales of these commodities to government agencies and adds an amount equal to the cash discounts usually allowed and selling expenses customarily included in civilian sales market—with the provision that both of these can not total more than 5 per cent of the base maximum. These prices are "base prices" from which the packer determines his maximum export price under the provisions of the export price regulation.

If the packer sells to an exporter, he may also charge the exporter the maximum price established for sales to a government agency, adjusted as stated above. The exporter, in turn, uses this cost as his "base price" in computing his maximum export price. All dried prunes and raisins except Three Crown London Layer Muscats and Zante currants are covered by this action.

OPA said that, where the packer sells to an exporter, he must attach to the invoice a statement that it has been agreed by both buyer and seller that the fruit is going into export trade. Further, packers must keep all correspondence in connection with export sales or sales to exporters, together with a copy of every invoice or other written evidence of purchase and sale, and must preserve their existing records as to customary allowances, discounts and price differentials.

Bulletin on Tomato Diseases

A new bulletin describing the diseases commonly affecting tomatoes in the field and greenhouse and giving measures recommended for reducing losses from them has been published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Farmers Bulletin No. 1934. As the methods of control vary with the nature and cause of the individual disease, it is necessary to determine what particular disease is responsible for an injury before applying control measures, and the key to diseases, given in the bulletin, should be of assistance in making such a diagnosis.